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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KEMBER (Vice-Chairman)	(New Zealand)
later:	Mr. MELENDEZ	(El Salvador)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

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AGENDA ITEM 101: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/47/486)

1. Mr. MERIMEE (France) said that for more than four years New Caledonia had been experiencing a profoundly changed economic, political and social climate which could not have emerged if the spirit of openness had not prevailed over confrontation and violence. The dialogue between the parties had led to the signing of the Matignon and Oudinot Agreements which were based on three main principles: the right to self-determination, decentralization, land redistribution, and the economic and social development of the Territory.

2. With regard to the first principle, the Agreement provided that in 1998 the inhabitants of New Caledonia would exercise their right to self-determination in a ballot in which only voters domiciled for at least 10 months in the Territory could take part. With regard to decentralization, the three provinces of New Caledonia were now administered by their own elected representatives, their services were functioning, and each of them was deeply involved in its development work. The results were very encouraging with regard to economic and social development; the number of jobs had risen sharply, especially in the less developed northern provinces and the Loyalty Islands, for the benefit of which major infrastructure works had been undertaken in various sectors.

(Mr. Merimee, France)

3. With respect to land redistribution, the Rural and Land Development Agency (ADRAF) had allocated 62,500 hectares, with 80 per cent of the land going to Melanesians. A programme to provide start-up assistance for farmers had been established.

4. As far as training was concerned, the early results were also very encouraging, and the pass rates in secondary and vocational education examinations had risen considerably over the four years in the northern provinces and the Loyalty Islands. The programme for the training of 400 Melanesian administrators was another example of the importance attached to training.

5. The fostering of the cultural identity of the Melanesian community was the responsibility of the Kanak Culture Development Agency, and the establishment of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou cultural centre would give the Agency a new impetus. Accordingly, the balance sheet of the first four years of the implementation of the Matignon Agreements was generaly positive. Nevertheless, the French Government was continuing its efforts to strengthen the ongoing process and to respond to the Territory's special problems, in particular the problems of young people, the towns, the diversification of private enterprise sectors, and the encouragement of the role of custom in Caledonian society.

6. The French delegation noted with satisfaction that the draft resolution on New Caledonia submitted to the Committee took into account the positive developments in the situation in the Territory. It would therefore not have to object to the text or request a vote on it. However, France maintained its reservations as to the competence of the United Nations to consider the question of New Caledonia. Article 73 of the Charter entrusted exclusive competence for the self-determination of Non-Self-Governing Territories to the administering Powers. The question of New Caledonia fell exclusively within French sovereignty, and his delegation could not therefore join in the adoption of a United Nations text on the question.

7. The Matignon Agreements had profoundly changed the relations of New Caledonia with the countries of the region, where it was now regarded as a fully fledged partner. The French authorities thought it extremely important that the Territory should take its place in the community of the South Pacific, whose support was a valuable source of encouragement, and they would continue to promote the development of exchanges and cooperation between New Caledonia and its neighbours.

8. After more than four years the spirit of the Matignon and Oudinot Agreements remained unaltered, and each of the partners was persevering with their implementation. The French authorities were determined to ensure that in 1998 the inhabitants of New Caledonia would be able to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions.

9. Mr. SINGH (Nepal) said that the world was entering a new phase of human history. The resurgence of human rights and democratic values was really encouraging. The twentieth century had made major strides in the decolonization process. His delegation paid a tribute to the decisive role of the United Nations in that process and to the efforts made by the Special Committee on decolonization to mobilize international public opinion against colonialism.

10. Nevertheless, some vestiges of colonialism remained in various parts of the world, and the administering Powers were obliged under the Charter to create the necessary conditions to enable Non-Self-Governing Territories to decide their political status and economic future. They must abide by the provisions of the Charter and the relevant resolutions and facilitate political education programmes in the Territories in order to foster awareness among the people and enable them to exercise their right to self-determination. His delegation urged the administering Powers to abolish all discriminatory and unjust regulations imposed in the Territories. The United Nations must conduct negotiations to expedite the decolonization process in the Territories which were not yet independent, so that the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would achieve its objective in full by the end of the century.

11. In South Africa, the anti-apartheid struggle was not yet over and the goal of a free, democratic and non-racial South Africa had not yet materialized. The outbreak of violence had impeded the negotiation process. His delegation urged the parties concerned to end the violence and create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of negotiations. It again called on the South African Government to take immediate steps to implement the proposals of the United Nations for bringing a speedy end to the apartheid system and unreservedly supported the role of the United Nations which, in the post-cold war era, had become more important than ever, in the resolution of the South African problem.

12. Mr. BASALAMAH (Yemen) expressed satisfaction that, since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, many countries had acceded to independence. In view of that fact, his delegation was anxious to see the Palestinian people exercise its right of return. Israel should obey all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, including those calling for its withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights.

13. For the new world order to be credible, the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council must be implemented non-selectively and should not be interpreted in accordance with the interests of one or another State.

14. Mr. Melandez (El Salvador) took the Chair.

15. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia) said that the United Nations had played a vital role in the eradication of colonialism in the world, as its current composition showed. For more than 30 years, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had symbolized the hope of all those languishing under the colonial yoke.

16. While the Organization could take pride in its successes to date, there remained Non-Self-Governing Territories which had not yet exercised their right to self-determination. Most of them were small island territories with limited resources, whose fragile economies and ecosystems, particular vulnerability to natural disasters and heavy dependence on the administering Powers were causes of concern to the international community. Those countries, to which the Declaration was equally applicable, needed the assistance of the United Nations to overcome their problems and meet their aspirations. It was incumbent on the administering Powers to assist them in considering the options open to them.

17. Certain foreign interests continued to thwart decolonization efforts. In view of the relationship that existed between colonialism and alien economic exploitation, the administering Powers must ensure that all economic activities were conducted with a view to strengthening the economic autonomy of the Territories while safeguarding the interests of the indigenous peoples.

18. His country hoped that the important changes that had taken place in the world would also contribute to the elimination, by the end of the century, of the last traces of colonialism - a goal that had been reiterated by the non-aligned countries in September 1992 at Jakarta.

19. His delegation welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on South Africa, but maintained that, in spite of the current optimism, the international community must continue to give full support to the black population in its struggle against apartheid and maintain pressure on South Africa through sanctions as long as that was required. It regretted that some countries and transnational corporations were making new investments in South Africa and condemned those who supplied the South African regime with arms and nuclear technology. It was also important for oil-producing and exporting countries to terminate the supply of petroleum products to the South African Government.

20. His delegation was pleased that the Special Committee had given favourable consideration to the recommendations of the Working Group dealing with the rationalization of the Special Committee's work and particularly those concerning the revitalization of the Committee and the streamlining of its resolutions, working methods, agenda and list of territories.

21. His delegation called on the Committee to redouble its efforts to ensure that political freedom was accompanied by all the benefits of economic security, justice and equity.

22. Mr. SY (Senegal) noted that the work of the United Nations for the freeing of the colonial peoples since the adoption in 1960 of resolution 1514 (XV), entitled "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", had promoted the accession to national sovereignty of a large number of States and the principle of the universality of the United Nations.

23. The Special Committee on decolonization had also made praiseworthy efforts for the implementation of that Declaration as a result of its improved and more efficient working methods and the strict fulfilment of its mandate. Nevertheless, not all the results expected had yet been achieved, and the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism emphasized the need to complete the decolonization process by the year 2000. From that point of view, the regional seminars on decolonization questions and the activities supported by the subregional organizations of the Pacific and the Caribbean, as well as those undertaken by the specialized agencies, were a part of the Plan of Action. Within that framework, special attention should be given to the question of foreign economic investments in the new States and the Non-Self-Governing Territories and greater support should be given to their economic and social development programmes, with due regard for the need to protect their natural resources and their social and economic environment.

24. The international community should continue and strengthen its joint action to fulfil the hopes of the peoples of the Territories not yet independent. In that spirit, the Secretary-General should be encouraged to persevere in his efforts to find better means of settling the questions put before the Organization, particularly those relating to Western Sahara, New Caledonia and the Maldive islands.

25. In the case of apartheid, the international community should continue to help establish the security conditions in South Africa which would promote the resumption of negotiations and the advent of a free, democratic, unitary and non-racial society.

26. The unprecedented atmosphere of détente in today's world, characterized by a common desire to promote the advent of peace, security and democracy, imposed on the international community a duty to ensure that all peoples might realize their aspirations to independence, sovereignty and freedom and thus be enabled to participate effectively in the common management of world affairs and in the advent of an era of international cooperation to the benefit of all.

27. Mr. BATA'ANISIA (Solomon Islands), speaking on behalf of the nine member countries of the South Pacific Forum that were Members of the United Nations - Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands - stressed that decolonization had a particular place in the deliberations of the South Pacific Forum, given that South Pacific islands figured prominently among the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(Mr. Bata'anisia, Solomon Islands)

28. Forum Heads of Government, at their meeting earlier in the year in Honiara (Solomon Islands), had paid special attention to the Territory of New Caledonia. They had noted the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development so as to provide a framework for the Territory's peaceful evolution to self-determination. The Forum had been encouraged by the continuing progress made in implementation of the Matignon Accords and had noted the importance of the forthcoming mid-term review of the Accords in maintaining progress towards the decolonization of the Territory.

29. The Forum had expressed the hope that the French authorities and others would continue to expand their assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population in order to enable all New Caledonians to exercise their right to self-determination. Besides equitable economic and social development, transparency in preparation of the electoral rolls and continued dialogue among all parties in New Caledonia were important in ensuring an act of self-determination in which all options, including independence, were open. The Forum had reiterated the hope that the French authorities would facilitate regular visits by missions from the United Nations.

30. The Forum had welcomed the increasing contacts between New Caledonia and the countries of the Forum. New Caledonia was an integral part of the South Pacific region, and the strengthening of cooperation between Forum members and New Caledonia would make a positive contribution to the process of political and economic rebalancing in the Territory.

31. The Forum had agreed that its Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia had a continuing role to play in liaison between the Forum and the Territory, including work towards the formulation of questions to be asked during the referendum in 1998. The Committee's work would be particularly valuable after the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords. It was the Forum's hope that the French and territorial authorities would continue to facilitate the work of the Committee.

32. In conclusion, he trusted that the draft resolution on New Caledonia, the text of which represented the fruit of wide consultation undertaken in a spirit of moderation and compromise, would, as in previous years, be adopted by consensus.

33. Mr. DZAKHAEV (Russian Federation) said that the current session of the General Assembly was taking place in a remarkable context, at a time when, as the Secretary-General had so aptly remarked in his report, "the old international order has been swept away by a tidal wave of democratization". Such a reawakening of democracy offered unprecedented prospects for the attainment of the principles set forth in the Charter.

(Mr. Dzakhaev, Russian Federation)

34. The United Nations had played and would continue to play a central role in the process of decolonization, and the proclamation of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would facilitate the mobilization of a concerted effort on the part of the international community in that important endeavour and the acceleration of the attainment by colonial peoples of the right to self-determination.

35. The Charter obliged the administering Powers to contribute to the well-being of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and to promote their political, economic and social development. Given the prospect, for the first time in the history of humanity, of establishing a world economic space that would ensure a decent standard of living for all peoples, including those of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the problem of their socio-economic development was of particular importance.

36. Various kinds of foreign assistance could make a contribution to that process, but it was important to regulate and control the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial territories to ensure that they did not jeopardize the interests and rights of their peoples, including their right to freely develop their natural resources. Such activities must also contribute to the integration of Non-Self-Governing Territories into the world economy.

37. Advantage must also be taken of the positive developments in the world climate to dismantle the military bases established in Non-Self-Governing Territories and to prevent their use for nuclear tests and the deployment of nuclear weapons.

38. The work of the organs of the United Nations responsible for decolonization had already progressed significantly in the new international climate. At the summer session, in particular, the Special Committee had adopted a whole series of important decisions intended to assist the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination. The Special Committee on decolonization had improved the effectiveness of its work and, in that connection, special tribute must be paid to the efforts made by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Loria, the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea.

39. But the Special Committee had unfortunately not yet adapted to the new climate and its discussions were still taking place in a spirit of confrontation and futile rhetoric which tarnished its work. Its decisions still included provisions which were not within its mandate. If the Special Committee continued to ignore the new realities, to work in a spirit of confrontation and to trespass on the spheres of competence of other United Nations organs, his delegation would be compelled to redefine its position towards its work.

(Mr. Dzakhaev, Russian Federation)

40. The organs of the United Nations responsible for decolonization must above all seek to join their endeavours to those of the administering Powers in strengthening the Organization's potential to eliminate as quickly as possible the vestiges of colonialism, taking into account the will of the peoples of the Territories concerned.

41. Mr. ARDHAOUI (Tunisia) said that it was the responsibility of all States fully to implement United Nations resolutions concerning the right to self-determination and independence of peoples still under foreign administration and observed that the fulfilment of that right was one of the essential conditions for guaranteeing and ensuring respect for human rights. The United Nations should do its utmost to eliminate every vestige of colonialism by the end of the decade.

42. The 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories, most of which were small islands in Asia or the Pacific, faced special problems on account of their small size, low population, isolation, fragile economies and vulnerability to natural disasters. Accordingly, the United Nations and the other international organizations, together with the administering Powers, should multiply their efforts to ensure the harmonious development of those Territories' own economic resources, which alone could permit them effectively to exercise their right to self-determination.

43. Throughout the past year, the Special Committee on decolonization and the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance had endeavoured to take into account the remarks made by a number of delegations concerning the wording of the resolutions adopted on decolonization, the question of discourteous remarks about certain countries and the need for the Special Committee's methods of work to evolve. That Committee and its Subcommittee had endeavoured to rationalize their work and to restore full cooperation with the administering Powers; in that regard, they would have appreciated the presence of the latter during their meetings so that they could make their views known. They hoped that it would prove possible to develop a constructive dialogue in the future which would make it possible to find the best means of ensuring the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Organization.

44. The need for better knowledge of the situation in each of the Territories made it imperative for the Committee to be able to send periodic visiting missions to the Territories in order to be better informed about the situation on the spot. Many petitioners who had come to address the Committee had expressed the desire of the peoples of the Territories for a permanent dialogue with the United Nations and the Special Committee. He was convinced that the misunderstandings in that regard would be ironed out and that visiting missions would be allowed access to the Territories. The indigenous population groups should also be able to make themselves heard before United Nations bodies and, for that purpose, should be provided with financial

(Mr. Ardhaoui, Tunisia)

assistance to allow their representatives to travel to New York or to take part in the seminars organized on decolonization.

45. The presence of military bases and facilities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was an obstacle to the exercise of the right of self-determination. They should be evacuated and no plans should be made to establish new bases. Furthermore, the administering Powers should refrain from using the Territories or allowing them to be used for acts of war or intervention against other States.

46. The situation in South Africa remained disturbing, in spite of the changes that had taken place, and peace and security were still threatened by the aftermath of apartheid. Acts of violence should be renounced, and the South African regime should move to establish a favourable climate for peaceful negotiations and for the broader exercise of freedoms by abrogating the last discriminatory laws, promoting the introduction of a transitional Government and establishing an elected constituent assembly, whose aim would be to bring into being a democratic and non-racial society. The Special Committee still had a role to play in that regard, in so far as the roots of apartheid lay in colonization.

47. Mr. CHINVANNO (Thailand) said that the positive development of the international situation would facilitate the process of decolonization. Thailand would continue to work with other like-minded countries that supported the principles of equal rights and self-determination in order to achieve the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Accordingly, it commended the Special Committee for its contribution to removing the vestiges of colonialism. Thailand urged the United Nations and its specialized agencies to strengthen their measures and programmes of assistance to the peoples of the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories and urged the administering Powers to continue to adhere strictly to Article 73 of the Charter.

48. Thailand strongly believed that education and human resource development were important elements in the process of decolonization. Accordingly, the Government of Thailand had provided assistance to several developing countries, as well as to Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to enable them to achieve a level of development that would ensure economic independence after they had exercised their right to self-determination.

49. Recent developments in South Africa were encouraging; important steps had been taken towards a negotiated settlement. Since, on 18 March 1992, two thirds of the white population had voted in favour of dismantling apartheid, there was hope that the end of that regime might be in sight. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the United Nations and all parties concerned in the ongoing negotiations.

(Mr. Chinvanno, Thailand)

50. On the question of the political status of Palau, his delegation hoped that that Pacific island and the United States of America would reach an agreement in order fully to attain the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement. Such an achievement would complete the work of the Trusteeship Council, and it was an opportune moment for Member States to discuss seriously the question of the Council's future role.

51. Mr. KEMBER (New Zealand) said that it was desirable to keep in mind that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories did not fit the classic colonial mould. Although in certain Territories, expression of the desire for self-determination and independence must continue to be the focus of attention by the General Assembly, in most of the smaller Territories, special difficulties of size, economy and geographic isolation required a similarly unique response. The Special Committee had recognized that fact in its consolidated text on 10 of those Territories, while maintaining that such factors could not serve as a pretext to delay the speedy exercise by those peoples of their right to self-determination. None the less, it was for the people of those Territories to decide how and when to exercise that right. Accordingly, New Zealand welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/46/634/Rev.1) but considered that calling for the organization of referendums on self-determination in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of the current decade was inconsistent with the right of the peoples of those Territories to decide how and when to exercise their right to self-determination.

52. New Zealand was well aware of its obligations as an administering Power but believed that it was doubtful that Territories of 60, or even 1,600 people would desire independence. Other than independence, resolution 1541 (XV) presented two additional options, free association and integration. That resolution stipulated also that those options should result in a free and voluntary choice by the peoples concerned and that in the case of integration, the people should have the capacity to make a responsible choice through democratic processes.

53. New Zealand was conscious of the need to lay proper economic and political foundations in preparation for self-determination, as the report of the recent Decolonization Seminar held in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114) admirably pointed out. The report said that the administering Powers, the international community generally and the specialized agencies should all take the steps necessary to ensure the sustained and balanced development of the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories but that the administering Powers should not exercise excessive control lest it constitute an obstacle to the self-determination process. In order to ensure a proper balance, there was a real need to encourage non-exploitative foreign investment and support for the Territories. New Zealand was especially alert to the negative aspects of foreign economic activity, such as investment that was insensitive to indigenous culture, drug trafficking or activities of an environmentally

(Mr. Kember, New Zealand)

damaging kind. That was New Zealand's approach, not only to Tokelau, the Non-Self-Governing Territory under its administration, but also, more broadly, to other relevant items on the agenda.

54. Environmental concerns were uppermost in the minds of the people of Tokelau, and its leaders had called on the industrialized nations to curb activities that contributed to global warming and were therefore a great danger for the people of the Territory. They had commended the Government of France for its decision to suspend nuclear testing on Muroroa atoll. In the political context, the people of Tokelau and the New Zealand Government had been working together to enhance the power of executive and legislative institutions in the Territory, but the leaders and people of Tokelau had asked to pursue a change in the status of the Territory at a slower pace, as economic progress and the development of an internal political framework took priority.

55. New Zealand supported the United Nations initiative for Western Sahara, in which the Secretary-General personally played an important role, as set out in detail in his report (A/47/506). It hoped that the parties would reach an understanding regarding the organization of the referendum on self-determination. His Government supported draft resolution A/C.4/47/L.2 submitted on that question by the Chairman of the Fourth Committee.

56. With respect to New Caledonia, he fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Solomon Islands on behalf of the States members of the South Pacific Forum. The attitude of the various parties was very encouraging, and his delegation would be interested in the results of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, as it was the one process that offered the best prospects for the further economic and political development of New Caledonia in the preparatory stage leading up to the exercise of its right of self-determination in 1998.

57. The New Zealand delegation was particularly pleased to note that the recommendations that it had made in 1991 - to rationalize the work of the Fourth Committee and the Special Political Committee by encouraging greater participation by the specialized agencies and by holding a single general debate on all items - had borne fruit. Nevertheless, more remained to be done. For instance, it was regrettable that the Special Committee's reports and recommended draft resolutions continued to contain outdated terms. While resolutions concerning individual Territories were more consistent with contemporary situations, the same could not be said of the resolutions concerning foreign economic interests and the specialized agencies and the draft decision on military activities. Of course, it was right to continue to address the issue of apartheid, but that issue had little relevance to the needs and aspirations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The problem arose in particular with regard to the resolution on the role of specialized agencies, in which South Africa had been referred to quite frequently. It was a matter for concern that support for a resolution

(Mr. Kember, New Zealand)

regarding activities of such great importance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories should decline in support from year to year. The time had come for the Fourth Committee to consider that resolution with an eye towards merging it with the resolution adopted for the first time in 1991, as General Assembly resolution 46/70, so as to send an important signal that the United Nations intended to assist in providing Territories the wherewithal better to exercise their right to self-determination. The New Zealand delegation was ready to offer its help in drafting such a resolution.

58. He welcomed the ongoing rationalization process and believed that it should continue. The time had come for the Fourth Committee to consider the possibility of a new Committee structure. The Committee needed to take action before its work lost the support of the broader United Nations membership; otherwise the losers would be the very Territories whose interests had been entrusted to it.

59. Mr. SÖKMENSÜER (Turkey) recalled that his country had been one of the sponsors of the Declaration on decolonization, whose adoption had been a milestone in achieving the objectives and ideals set forth in the Charter. It was to be hoped that the ending of the cold war and the new international atmosphere of cooperation would help the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination by the end of the century. As with many other items on the international agenda, the problems of decolonization required a new, realistic and constructive approach to reflect the improving nature of international relations.

60. The Fourth Committee should establish constructive cooperation between the administering Powers and the decolonization bodies so that future challenges could be met. The Special Committee on decolonization and the administering Powers should bring to the Fourth Committee the flexibility and creativity of approach that had recently characterized United Nations work in other fields and which should be reflected also in Fourth Committee resolutions. In order to achieve full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in the 18 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, efforts to serve the real interests of the people of those Territories must be redoubled. Turkey, for its part, was ready to contribute actively to the work of the United Nations in that field.

61. Mr. OVALLE (Chile) recalled his country's position that the administering Powers must not only provide the United Nations with all necessary economic, social and statistical data, but also ensure the political, economic and social progress of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and help them to establish the form of government they had chosen. To that end, the administering Powers must see to it, in particular, that development policies for the Territories were ecologically sound. They must therefore eliminate production and consumption models that were harmful to the environment. Recalling Principle 25 of the Rio Declaration, he emphasized also that those

(Mr. Ovalle, Chile)

Powers must refrain from carrying out nuclear tests and from deploying weapons of mass destruction in the Territories they administered.

62. The Government of Chile was determined to work with the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on decolonization, in close cooperation with the administering Powers, to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism by the end of the decade.

63. Ms. DAPUL (Philippines) noted that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, located predominantly in the Pacific and the Caribbean, were lightly populated island Territories with limited natural resources. The focus of the Committee's deliberations should therefore be on the special circumstances and needs of the inhabitants of those Territories. Continued access to them by visiting missions was a must, so that the United Nations could gather first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their people as to their future status. Securing the cooperation of the administering Powers was also essential, as they were entrusted with educating dependent peoples as to the options available to them and preparing them for the responsibilities of self-determination and independence. her delegation supported the holding of regional seminars to enable the inhabitants of the Territories to express their views. It appreciated the participation of specialized agencies in the Committee's debates on their involvement in the economic and social development of the Territories, which had been useful in arriving at an assessment of conditions in each Territory.

64. On New Caledonia, the Philippines welcomed the measures being pursued by the French authorities to promote equitable political, economic and social development, and took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Matignon Agreement. She hoped that the forthcoming mid-term review of the Agreement would foster the peaceful evolution of New Caledonia towards self-determination. The Philippines welcomed the draft resolution on New Caledonia submitted by the Special Committee on decolonization and hoped that it would again be adopted by consensus.

65. On the subject of Western Sahara, her delegation noted with disappointment the indefinite postponement of the referendum for self-determination, and remained steadfast in its support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. The Philippines would continue to support all efforts to reach a final settlement of the matter and to bring peace and stability to Western Sahara, and hoped, therefore, that the draft resolution on Western Sahara would again be adopted by consensus.

66. Mrs. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) said that the problems common to the Non-Self-Governing Territories had in the main been identified, citing their geographical location that made them vulnerable to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems and their very small land area; their lack of qualified personnel, institutional framework and technicians; and their

(Mrs. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

inadequate means of transport and communications. All those factors could explain their isolation and economic weakness as well as the migration of local populations and the arrival of immigrants with the blessing of the administering Powers. Such vulnerability, too, could only encourage traffickers of all kinds to engage in illicit activities.

67. In that regard the Special Committee had made recommendations, particularly with respect to the development of the Territories' human resources, the development of highway infrastructure, transport and communications, the diversification of the economy by the promotion of agriculture and agribusiness, and the chance for the inhabitants to develop their marine resources and to keep the profits for themselves. Naturally, such a vast programme would remain a dead letter without the continuous assistance of the international community.

68. On the question of Western Sahara, her delegation noted that the implementation of the settlement plan was being hindered by the intransigence of the parties on the interpretation of the criteria for participation in the referendum. Madagascar therefore wished to reiterate its support for the original plan and to encourage both parties to respect the commitment they had made, to reduce disagreements and to make even-handed concessions so as not to deprive the Saharan people of its right to a free and honest referendum. Madagascar was glad, too, that the United Nations mission was to remain in place to organize a referendum.

69. Her delegation thought that the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Committee on decolonization, the regular provision of information on the Territories and the arranging of visiting missions were indispensable to the evaluation of the Territories' situation and also to an assessment of how far the Declaration was being implemented.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.